

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 100090
ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 MCT-01 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PRS-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 DHA-02 NSC-05
NSCE-00 SY-05 CPR-01 /035 R

DRAFTED BY L/SFP:LGFIELDS,JR:NMC
APPROVED BY M/CT - AMB. HECK
EA/PHL - B. FLECK
JUSTICE:AUSA(DC) W. COLLINS(DRAFT)
-----032245Z 116746 /15
O 032154Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 100090

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, RP, US

SUBJECT: LECHOCO TRIAL

REF: STATE 93944

1. ON REHEARING OF COMPETENCY PORTION OF LECHOCO TRIAL
JURY FOUND LECHOCO NOT GUILTY BY REASON OF INSANITY.
THIS JURY, BY ITS VERDICT, WAS PERSUADED BY EVIDENCE THAT
LECHOCO WAS SUFFERING FROM "GROSS STRESS REACTION" DUE TO
FAILURE OF GOP TO ALLOW ELDEST SON TO TRAVEL TO U.S. AND
THIS REACTION MADE HIM TEMPORARILY INSANE AND THUS NOT
RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ACTIONS. EFFECT OF THIS VERDICT WILL BE
TO REMAND LECHOCO TO ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL, WASHINGTON,
D.C. FOR PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION. THIS EVALUATION WILL DE-
TERMINE WHETHER LECHOCO HAS RECOVERED FROM THE PSYCHIATRIC
EFFECTS OF HIS TEMPORARY INSANITY AND WHETHER HE IS AT THIS
TIME FREE OF ANY INHIBITING MENTAL ILLNESS. EXAMINING
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PSYCHIATRIST WILL REPORT FINDINGS TO COURT AT HEARING WHICH
WILL DETERMINE WHETHER LECHOCO WILL BE COMMITTED TO AN IN-
STITUTION FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE OR BE RELEASED. IT
SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT LECHOCO WAS CONVICTED ON THE
SUBSTANTIVE CHARGES AND WAS CONFINED FROM AUGUST 1975 TO
NOVEMBER 1976.

2. AUSA COLLINS DOES NOT BELIEVE LECHOCO WILL BE HOSPITALIZED FOR EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME DURING PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATION AND DOES NOT ANTICIPATE EXAMINING PSYCHIATRIST WILL RECOMMEND COMMITMENT. IT IS LIKELY LECHOCO WILL BE RELEASED WITHIN TWO OR THREE WEEKS, IF NOT SOONER.

3. ONE OF PROBABLE REASONS FOR JURY VERDICT AT REHEARING WAS EXTENSIVE TESTIMONY BY ANTI-MARCOS PHILIPPINE WITNESSES DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL. SUCH TESTIMONY WAS NOT ELEMENT OF DEFENSE CASE DURING FIRST TRIAL AND OBVIOUSLY IT WAS DECISIVE FACTOR THIS TIME.

4. THERE WAS ONLY ONE REPORTER (WASHINGTON POST) PRESENT IN COURTROOM TO HEAR VERDICT AND IT IS DOUBTFUL EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY WILL RESULT FROM VERDICT. EXTENT TO WHICH LECHOCO OR OTHER ANTI-MARCOS ELEMENTS WILL SEEK TO PUBLICIZE THIS VERDICT WOULD BE SPECULATIVE; HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN NO PERCEPTIBLE PRESS OR PUBLIC INTEREST DURING THIS HEARING. THERE WILL, OF COURSE, BE SOME COVERAGE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT BUT PASSAGE OF TIME HAS REMOVED MUCH OF NEWS WORTHINESS FROM STORY. DEPT WILL OF COURSE BE INTERESTED IN TREATMENT OF THIS DEVELOPMENT IN PHILIPPINE PRESS AND ANY REACTION OF GOP TO THIS DEVELOPMENT.

5. WHILE THIS IS AN UNFORTUNATE PRECEDENT FROM STANDPOINT OF POSSIBLE ENCOURAGEMENT FOR FUTURE TERRORISM DIRECTED AGAINST DIPLOMATS AND DIPLOMATIC FACILITIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF COUNTRIES WHERE PUBLIC SYMPATHY COULD BE EXPLOITED, IT IS NOT FELT THIS ACTION IS LIKELY TO PRE-
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CIPITATE RASH OF INCIDENTS.

6. DEPT IS GRATEFUL FOR SPLENDID COOPERATION OF GOP AND AMBASSADOR ROMAULDEZ IN THIS HEARING. IT DEMONSTRATES A FIRM COMMITMENT BY GOP TO INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO COMBAT TERRORISM, PARTICULARLY THAT DIRECTED AGAINST THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LGFIELDS,JR:NMC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770155-0398
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770598/aaaadhei.tel
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Litigation History:
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: LECHOCO TRIAL
TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, RP, US, (LECHOCO, NAPOLEON)
To: MANILA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a2c8309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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